The Free Press.

A WEEKLY JOURNAL. DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

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COL. C. D. DUVAL, - - - EDITOR.

TERMS.

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THE FREE PRESS.

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ELECTION OF 1868.

FOR PRESIDENT: ULYSSES S. GRANT, OF ILLINOIS.

FOR VICE-PRESIDENT: REUBEN E. FENTON, OF NEW YORK. Subject to the decision of the Union Re-

Chicago on the 20th day of May next. "This Government is a Republic where the Will of the People is the Law of the Land." U. S. GRANT.

publican National Convention, to be held at

OUR STATE TICKET. FOR GOVERNOR: GEN. R. K. SCOTT.

FOR LIEUT. GOVERNOR: HON. LEMUEL BOOZER.

FOR ADJT. & INSP. GENERAL: F. J. MOSES, JR.

FOR SECRETARY OF STATE: F. L. CARDOZA.

FOR COMPTROLLER GENERAL: Dr. J. L. NEAGLE.

FOR TREASURER:

N. G. PARKER.

FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL: D. H. CHAMBERLAIN.

FOR SUPT. OF EDUCATION: J. K. JILLSON.

FOR CONGRESSMEN: First District B. F. Whittemore, Second C. C. Bowen, Third S. Corley, Fourth " J. H. Goss. At large J. P. M. Epping, Elias Dixon,

DELEGATES TO CHICAGO CONVENTION : B. F. Whittemore, First District. F. J. Moses, Jr., *H. E. Hayne, F. A. Sawyer, *Capt. Smalls, Second District. *J. H. Jenks, B. O. Duncan, C. M. Wilder, Third District. *W. B. Nash, Wm. E. Rose, *Y. J. P. Owens, Fourth District. *Wilson Cook,

> FOR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, Charleston County:

* Alternates.

R. H. CAIN. D. T. CORBIN,

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. A. J. Ransier. R. C. DeLarge, W. H. W. Gray, R. Thomlinson, George Lee, B. A. Bosemon, J. H. Jenks, B. F. Jackson, F. J. Moses, Jr., Wm. McKinlay, J. B. Dennis, W. J. Brodie, A. Smith. J. B. Wright, S. Johnson. Wm. Jervey, Edward Mickey. S. Brown,

STRIKE WHILE THE IRON IS HOT. The enemies of Republicanism are organizing their forces all over our State. They will leave no stone unturned to find means to overthrow our party. They will not only attempt to prevent the ratification of the new Constitution, but will endeavor to vilify and abuse our candidates in every way likely to secure their defeat. In this condition, it becomes us to be up and doing. Organize in every locality; bring out every vote; let no obstacle deter any Republican, from casting a ballot in favor of the Constitution, Justice and Equal Rights.

COLLETON NOMINATIONS.

We understand certain interested parties are endeavoring to overthrow the regular Republican nominations in Colleton. The men doing this dirty work have an idea that they have a right to dictate whom the people shall elect. We tell them that they had better consider whether their own footing is sure before they attempt to displace their betters. The Republican party belongs to the people, not to any "ring."

CHARLESTON.

SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 1868.

THE TICKET.

The Nominating Convention has done its work. Candidates for the various State offices are in the field. In something less than twenty days they will have ceased to be candidates and become officers elect. But let us go to work to secure for the ticket a handsome majority. Let every true Republican come up and deposit his ballot for the "Constitution;" and let those words be supplemented by the names of the tried men. who, when elected, will do all in their power to administer that Constitution in its

We must put the new machine in the hands of its friends; of those who believe in the potency of its arrangements for the well-being of the State. We must run no risk of having the new State officers men who are opposed to the new Constitution. We would gladly have placed upon the State ticket more of the old South Carolina names, if their possessors had shown any sympathy with Republicanism-but they are yet befogged in the clouds of a falsely called Conservatism; they stick in the rubbish and wallow in the mud of a rotten Democracy : they cherish the hope that help will yet come to the sause of monopoly and privilege from the Northern copperheads; they forget that the Northern Democracy have never done them any good ; that, however pliant tools they may have been in the olden days of the Southern slavocracy-when the pinch came they always deserted; they forget that the day has passed when the Democracy of the North was made up of a fair proportion of the honest, true and intelligent men of that section; and has now its chief strength in the slums of cities, the environs of pot-houses and brothels. A few men of education and ability show themselves as leaders, but without exception such men are thorough aristocrats in their tastes, their theories and their habits, except when they have a party object to gain.

While therefore, we would have been glad to welcome to our ranks those of the old regime of South Carolina, into whom a new life-blood has been infused, it is not our fault that we have been unable to do so. They are determined to be deceived once more, and the singular spectacle has been presented of that portion of the people of a State who have professed to bear it unparallelled love and devotion, abstaining in an important crisis from all participation in creating a new government, and trusting its interests in the hands of those whom they affect to consider, not only unworthy to make a Constitution, but unworthy to

We have, however, presented to the people for their suffrages not a man who if elected, will not do credit to South Carolina in his office. All are highly respectable gentlemen. Most have peculiar qualifications for the post they will occupy.

The extensive experience of Gen. R. K. Scott, in military affairs, and his large knowledge of the condition, wants and interests of the State, obtained by his position of Assistant Commissioner of the Freedmen's Bureau, eminently fit him for Governor. But to that experience and that knowledge, must be added as worthy of consideration, his integrity, his thorough sympathy with the cause of equal rights and justice, and his well known conciliatory temper. We must give him a large majority, and show the country that we do not ask where a man was born; whether he comes of an old family or a new one; but what he is, what he has done for the country, what he is capable of still doing, and whether he is the right man for our use in

The candidates for the other offices on the State ticket, are well able to sustain its character. They all deserve our suffrages and our esteem. Let us see to it, that a full vote is polled for the constitution and for its friends on the State ticket.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

We hope efforts will be made to secure public meetings at prominent points in the State, prior to the election.

There are thousands of white people who might be aroused from their lethargy and enlisted in the cause of Republicanism if its doctrines and its theories were place before them. They have never heard of Republicanism except through a press which carricatures its exponents, misrepresents its ideas, vilifies its practices. It is our mission to muster into the Republican party that large mass of white men who were made to do the dirty work of the old proslavery politicians, without sharing in the slightest degree the fruits of the slave system; men whose every interest is with the Republican party, who can hope through its policy only, to become men indeed, but who formed the rank and file of the rebel army, while the masters were its of-

Let us have as many public meetings as possible, and send as many good speakers out as can be spared from other work.

THE MAYOR.

It is somewhat remarkable to note what the energy and vigor of a really competent man in the Mayor's chair can do for the city. There is hardly any point where Mayor Cogswell's hand cannot be seen doing good. And while expressions of approbation are heard on all sides, the value of city securities to-day, as compared with their value sixty days since, tells the story in an unmistakable way.

BOTH SIDES OF THE QUESTION,

One hundred and fifty individuals; seventy-five geniuses-two men-three female women-two male men-one goat-two cows and one lamp-post advocate were before the Mayor this week. Cause ; -effect of the rise in the price of cotton.

THE WORLD MOVES.

The annual examination of the sthools under the charge of the Board of Conmissioners of the Free Schools of the panishes of St. Philip and St. Michael took place on Wednesday, 1st instant.

The exercise of the schools in St. Ihilip Street were attended by about the usual number of visitors, and exhibited evidence of the faithfulness with which the teachers and the pupils had performed their respective duties. Indeed the public of Charleston have in the condition of those schools abundant reason for congratulation. It is well that in these times of poverty we have free schools in which the instruction and the discipline are in no way inferior to those of the best private schools we have ever had; nay, schools where, all things considered, the necessary branches of an English education may be even more thoroughly and satisfactorily acquired than in any of our private schools.

But the noticeable event of the year in the school examinations, is the fuct that a large and prosperous school containing colored children only, now comes into the field as a competitor for public notice.

The "Morris Street School," has several hundred pupils, all colored. They have for six months or more been enjoying all the advantages of education, given by the Board of Commissioners to any school in the city. There is no charge for tuition, and the instruction is of the best kind. This was made manifest by the examination. The pupils were without exception neatly dressed, attentive and prompt in their exercises, and evidently well versed in the studies to which their attention had been directed. Had our eyes been shut, we certainly should not have known that we were not listening to the exercise of a very good school of children of the hitherto more favored race, We were forced to admit, and we think the veriest stickler for the superiority of the white race must have admitted, that the results of the examination were a stumbling block in the way of him who denies the practibalily of making an intelligent and educated people of the blacks.

We were glad to see that the examination was attended by a goodly number of the parents of the children, and by F. A. Sawyer, Esq. and J. D. Geddings, Esq. Both these gentlemen by their large experience in educational matters, are well qualified to give an opinion on the condition of the School. The Principal, Mr. T. W. Glen, requested them to present the several prizes which had been awarded to the most meritorious pupils in the several classes. Accordingly Mr. Geddings performed this pleasant duty in the Primary Department, and made some felicitous and appropriate remarks, in which he expressed his great satisfaction.

Mr. Sawyer addressed briefly the pupils of the male and female Departments, endeavoring to impress upon them the importance of their education, expressing his sense of the fidelity with which teachers and pupils had labored to make the school successful, and encouraging both to press on the work so well begun.

John Russell, Esq., who as well as Mr-Sawyer, is one of the Board of Commissioners, was also present and evidently much pleased with the appearance of the school. With the exception of the reporters, these were all the white visitors we observed. We regret that there could not have been a larger attendance, as we think it desirable that the community should become better acquainted with what is doing, and what can be done, for our colored population.

VOTE RIGHT,

Vote when the time comes, so that you and your children shall be forever free. VOTE when the the time comes for the new Constitution, that secures your Homesteads to you for all time to come.

Vore when the time comes for that Constitution that gives a free Education to every man's child in the State.

Vote for that Constitution that gives the people a right to select their own rulers.

LET your answer on the 16th of this month be to your enemes, we ask nothing but what is right, and our votes to-day tell you, we will not submit to anything wrong.

LOYAL men of South Carolina, as your enemes fired the first gun on the 14th of April, 1861, to destroy this Country, see to it, that you fire the first gun on the 14th of April, 1868, to forever place it beyond the power of any man to dissolve this Union.

REPUBLICANS of South Carolina, the Loyal millions of this Country, expect that you will do your duty on the 14th, 15th and 16th of this month. Shall they expect in vain?

FREE men of new South Carolina, will you let the Loyal Scott be defeated by the disloyal Hampton, let your registering an-

MEN of South Carolina, be ready on the 14th, 15th and 16th days of this month to send word to Massachusetts that your soil is forever free; and that no son of hers shall be compelled to leave your State, because he is a friend of the poor and oppressed; go

and register, now is the time. VOTE for Gen. Scott, the poor man's friend, the choice of the Loyal Convention of South Carolina. A man from the ranks of the people, and whose heart is in the work, and who will care for the result, who will not forget the humane man in the office

THE TICKETS.

It has been asserted that freedmen were swindled in some localities into paying from ten to twenty-five cents for their ballots at the last election.

Let all voters understand that any man who attempts to collect any money to pay for ballots is a swindler. The ballots will be furnished free of all cost to the voter. Let every true man mark those who attempt to fill their own pockets with money from such a source.

THE POWER OF THE PRESS.

We are on the eve of a political canvass of great importance to our State. Questions involving the very existance of the Government and the freedom of Humanity are to be decided by the Loyal Voters of South Carolina. Political opponents are mustering, their adherents to the conflict of opinion at the ballot-box. In the intelligence and firmness of the people rests the sure hope of the country. The call now sounding in the ears of Republicans is "To action."-It means work for all-calm, earnest, and determined effort in behalf of the principles and measures of the Republican party.

In this campaign the Free Press will labor with zeal and earnestness. Having readers in every town in the State, it must be felt shaping by the intelligence it communicates and the arguments it presents, those matured and solid convictions, which all the clamor and clap trap of political demagogues cannot shake or modify. Moulding; calm ly, patiently, and with the end full in view; the impulses, hopes, and aspirations of the public heart, storing the mind with information, training the brain to thought, and in spiring our readers for the coming fight with the earnest conviction which springs from their well considered appreciation of the arguments and facts presented to their superior intelligence through our columns

The newspaper Press may not be as demonstrative as the loud mouthed and ranting stump orator in the exciting campaign, yet it does more than all else to determine the result of the canvas. It penetrates every where with an active, enterprising, able, and though silent, yet an irresistible power to every corner of the land.

The people who control government, and shape its destinies, are those who read newspapers. The intelligent voter forms his opinion upon facts and arguments presonted by, and through them. Then to secure a triumph of correct principles, circulate Republican papers-here in South Carolina let all the loyal people circulate the Free Press, it is the only Republican paper in this State, and all must sustain it, the publishers were the first to fling to the breeze the banner of liberty, justice and equality before the law, they ask that all will do their part remembering that our cause is that of truth, justice, and liberty, and let every one who wishes to advance it, remember that a free unfettered Press is the most potent weapon that can be employed.

THE HANDWRITING ON THE WALL.

The signs in the political heavens are multifarious and problematical. There may be, to the visular organs of some, a few thin vapors or flying clouds which they may imagine indicates a Hatteras squall or a Cape Horn catastrophe, but to our eye there is little or nothing that portends s serious or speedy conflict of the political elements. The recent registering of 149 white voters and 13 colored, in this city, may mean something that is yet invisible to the naked eye. Some profess to see the germ of a reactionary storm, the indications of a strong head wind in the late mustering of the Democratic clans at Columbia, and the nominations that were made, headed by the Harry Hotspur of the State, the impetuous and chilvaric Hampton. Those on the lookout at the mast head may see a cloud to the leeward larger than a man's hand in the rapid and extensive formation of Democratic clubs throughout the State, and the clarion notes of the bugle blast that calls to the rescue. There may be something in all this, but some think that its only effect will be to rally the Republican hosts, and keep them in line.

RELIEF OF DISABILITY.

It is very often the wisest policy to accept repentance as a sufficient atonement for political offences. The men who have inflicted deepest injury, can often do the most to repair it. The reconstruction committee in the House have reported a list of a few men prominent in the ranks of the rebellion in arms and civil life, from whom it recommends that the political disabilities consequent upon their course be removed. It would seem a wise as well as a generous policy to do so. The two questions that should be all-important in regard to such applications are simple, did the applicant during the war commit any act contrary to the laws of civilized warfare, and has he since by decided action shown a desire to amend the past, by efforts to restore the Union to its integrity? The country was easily convinced that to spare all below a certain prominence in the rebellion was the wisest policy. Those above a certain rank, or who, in other words, had a large share of power and responsibility in exciting or continuing the war, were held as examples. The distinction was an arbitrary one, inasmuch as those of a lower rank were often uilty in a greater degree in proportion to their power, than these who had greater responsibility. Therefore as occasion serves it is proper to allow the chief's, not otherwise amenable by ill-conduct during the struggle, to secure a pardon by repentance and atonement. Their influence, when they choose to exert it, cannot but be of great value in conciliating good feeling among their former soldiers or followers, and they will form striking examples of the merciful disposition of the Northern people. It will forward the course of reconciliation at the South, by at least one generation, if the acknowledged leaders in station and intellect will set themselves to the task of conciliating instead of exasperating the public feeling. Some bitter and malignant spirits there doubtless are, who prefer to spend their days in bewailing the "Lost Cause," and railing against their conquerors. Let these indulge their natures to their utmost, unheeded, but when men like Gen. Longstreet for instance, show a desire and determination to amend their errors, it is a wise policy to encourage them. What is chiefly to be guarded against, is less insincere and deceitful professions be allowed to pass for actual repentance. The reward should not be too easy to obtain, nor yet too hard, and should be of special, not of general application.—Reporter.

REMEMBER, that you are not voting for your friends, but for your Country, your Children, and your Liberty.

WASHINGTON LETTER.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April, 1st. 1868. Editor "Free Press:"

Great interest has been manifested here in all the steps which South Carolina has taken towards reconstruction.

We watched the Constitutional Convention through every stage of its progress, and after it had completed its labors, we regarded its new Constitution as an admirable piece of workmanship, well suited to the exigency, and comparing more than favorably with any like instrument of the other states. We are now equally anxious that the Constitution be ratified by the people, and that the State start forth successfully in its new career.

We supposed the loyal strength with you

was not too abundant; and that consequently it would feel the necessity of husbanding its resources, and concentrating all its power in one, and the same direction. We felt, you could not afford, in the selection of men to carry out the spirit of your new Constitution, to resort to all the trickery and chicanery which are practiced in the old Northern and Western states. But if what we hear is true, we have reason to fear for the stability, and perpetuity of Republican principles, in the State of South Carolina, especially as the party will necessarily have to encounter outside of its organization, as much of enmity, and hostility as it can well endure, or overcome. It is reported here that the scramble for office has been really disgraceful among the professed friends of the Republican party; that the "ring" has triumphed, ruling out men of untarnished moral, and political faith, and dragging in others who possess neither, but who will only constitute a burden, which the party, certainly now it its weakness in your State, cannot afford to sustain. We hear that the doctrine of "rewards and punishments" has been carried to such an extent, that good men have often been ignored for your "General Assembly," and others have been selected, who are in the lowest depths of ignorance, and degradation. It is also reported that the more important offices, to some extent, are to be filled by the same disgraceful demoralizing influences. There is great commotion here particularly over the nomination for Congress from the Charleston District. If one half be true that is reported of the nominee, you need not send him here, for it is very certain he would not be admitted to a seat in the House of Representatives. Thomas from Maryland was denied a seat in the Senate, not because his moral character would not stand the test of a respectable community; nor because he had wielded the musket, and brandished the sword against the Government of the United States; but because he had rendered "aid and comfort to the enemy," to the extent of furnishing a moderate outfit for the Confederate army, to his son. Congress, at present cannot afford to take

on any "dead weights," and more especially where living, vital material is abundant to fill every vacant seat. The Rev. Mr. French is here, doing great service for the Republican party. He eminently deserves, and I think will receive an appointment upon some important Foreign mission. Impeachment, after the usual embarrass-

ments, and delays is progressing slowly, but without doubt, to a successful termina-

With Johnson in Tennessee, and Wade in the Presidential chair, the country will breathe easily, and freely.

Let South Carolina place herself in position to reap her full share of advantage from the so long desired change. Yours FIELDMAS. respectfully,

BARNWELL INTELLIGENCE.

The Convention for nominating State Senator and Representatives from Barnwell, met at Blackville on Thursday, April

The nominations are as follows: FOR SENATOR,

CHAS. P. LESLIE.

J. W. MIXON, ROBT. B. ELLIOTT. JAS. N. HAYNE CHAS. D. HAYNE. REV. B. F. BERRY, JULIUS MAYER.

FOR REPRESENTATIVES.

The above is a good ticket and will undoubtedly be elected. After the nominations a few remarks were made by N. G. Parker, Esq., of Charleston, and an eloquent and telling address to a large audience of both races was delivered by F. A. Sawyer, Fsq. He reviewed the policy of the Democratic and Republican parties in relation to the Southern States, and showed conclusively that the true friends of the South are in the Republican ranks.

He paid a well deserved tribute to the character of Gen. R. K. Scott, the candidate for Governor, and of the other gentlemen on the State ticket.

We regret that our space does not allow us to give the address in full, as it was one of the best yet delivered in the State.

After Mr. Sawyer concluded his remarks. Mr. C. P. Leslie made one of his characteristic and sensible speeches, and the audience dispersed well pleased with the days' work. BARNWELL

POLL TAX.

It is understood that an impression prevails that men who have not paid their poll or capitation tax will be deprived of the privilege of voting. Such is not the fact. Every man who is registered will have the right to vote on the 14th, 15th and 16th days of April. It is the duty of every good republican to give this information to all within his reach.

This impression that the payment of a poll tax is necessary to secure the right to vote on the constitution, is one of the wiles of the enemy.

THE BUOYANT VEGETABLE The upward tendency of the cotton market has made greenbacks more plentiful, and financial matters shade or two easier. Elongated faces are relaxing into their wonted proportions, and consumptive pockets and dyspeptic coffers are slowly acquiring some of the former aldermanic rotundity. King street, as a fashionable promenade and retail business mart is exhibiting unmistakable symptoms of returning activity and commercial life. The spring fashions are budding out--modestly, of course, at first, like the rose and tulip taking an April peep at the weather to see if the winter has sufficiently retired to make out-door exercise safe and agreeable. The brusque winds of boisterous March are coquetting with the genial sunshine and balmy breezes of April, yet the reign of the ice king who has carried his hoary standard this season to the verge of the tropics, is rapidly drawing to a close, and the smiling queen of May with her garland wreaths and coronel of flowers is being escorted to the vacant throne by her maids of honor. Emerging from the ruin and desolation of the past, we are pressing upon the threshold of a brighter day and a more prosperous era. May heaven speed the "good time coming."

AN HONEST REPUBLICAN REPENTS.

An ex-Republican has addressed a letter to the editors of this paper asking whether he can now be received into the Democratic fold. He says that he is disgusted with the action of the Radical party, and that, as he loves and venerates constitutional government as established by our fathers, he finds it necessary to change at once his political

This paper is not the organ of the Democratic party, or of any other party, and it is not in the power of its editors to extend to an "ex-Republican" the assurance that he will be warmly welcomed into the ranks of the old Democracy. But there is a party now organized by name—the "Great Conservative Party of the United States," a party which, if not publicly organized, does already exist in the intentions and wishes of millions of progressive Democrats and intelligent and moderate Republicans, and which party an "ex-Republican" may join with the certainty of avoiding extremes, and the knowledge that he is co-operating in that movement which alone can give any lasting guarantee to right, privilege or liberty.—Daily News, April 2.

"A rascal lost, is an honest man gained."

AN HONEST DEMOCRAT REPENTS. Like a vast many others at the present time, viewing the situation of the country after a terrible war in which it was involved by slavery, and hoping for a reconstruction of the Southern States upon a basis of justice and humanity that would forever prevent another rebellion, Mr. John P. Spicer, a prominent Democrat of Groton, Connecticut, feels it his duty to withdraw from the party, give his reasons therefor, and join the Republican ranks. In closing,

"An honest conviction of truth and duty constrains me to withdraw from the Democratic party with which I have been connected for the past twenty-five years, and identify myself with the Republican party, sincerely believing that the principles and policy of the latter are more in accordance with humanity, justice, freedom, and a sound public policy. And I will take this occasion to thank my former political associates for the courtesy and confidence which they have ever manifested to me, and only ask that they will concede honesty and sincerity of purpose in this step as they ever conceded to me in my associations with them, and I earnestly hope that they may soon be convinced that the Republican party of this day, is the exponent of genu-

JOHN P. SPICER.

THE COMING CAMPAIGN.

ine democracy.

We are not insensible to the fact that the Democratic politicians are full of hope; that they are aboring with a zeal and unscrupulousness hitherto unparralelled, to secure success in the coming Presidential election with a view of restoring the old order of things in our government, and giving the rebel element complete supremacy as in the "good old days" of the chivalry. We know that "eternal vigilance is the price of liberty," and that the Republican party must organize its forces, must arouse to duty, must work with all its energy to maintain Republican institutions and assert the supremacy of freedom. The campaign must be an earnest one; loyal men, and women, too, must exert themselves with the full power of their might to uphold the integrity of the Republic. We sincerely believe that the restoration of the Democratic party to power at this time, with its Copperhead leadership and its affiliations and sympathy with the rebel element at the South would virtually destroy all that was gained by the triumph of the Union over the rebellion. - Exchange.

What is here said is emphatically true,

and well worthy of the serious attention of Republicans. The approaching political campaign will be no mere ordinary contest It will involve issues of the very highest moment, and principles of the most sacred value and importance. All the fruits of the war will be utterly lost or finally saved according as the one party or the other shall triumph. If the Democracy elect the President, who does not know that the whole of the Government will be reversed; that the disloyal and rebellious will be lifted into power and place; that the work of national restoration will be obstructed by every possible expedient, and that all the heresies which we had hoped the flames of war had consumed will be revived in full force aud vigor? Everything this party has done since the termination of hostilities; everything it hopes for or desires in the future, commits it to the policy of reaction and the support of the demands of the South. With this fact before our eyes, shall we not be in the highest degree criminal if we fail to do everything in our power to prevent its restoration to place. Obviously, our duty as Republicans is to prepare at once and vigorously for the work of the campaign. Everywhere our organization must be perfected and our plans of battle carefully matured. Every city, town, and plantation of the State should have its Grant Club, and in every School district there should be some systematic means for diffusing information and arousing popular attention to the necessities and duties of the hour. The Democrats of the North allied with the unrepentant rebels of the South are making despeate efforts to regain possession of the Republic, and they must be defeated.—Express.